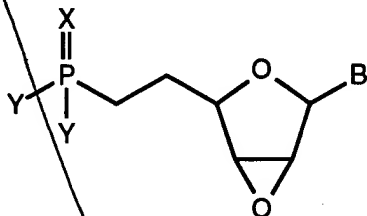


In the Claims

Please amend the claims as follows.

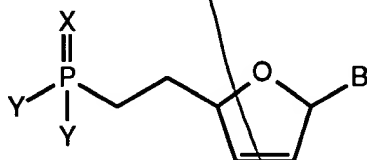
8. (amended) A compound of formula (III):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein [B, R¹, R², Y and X have any of the meanings given in claim 7]

each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂ or SR² wherein,
each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and
X is oxygen or sulfur.

9. (amended) A compound of formula (IV):



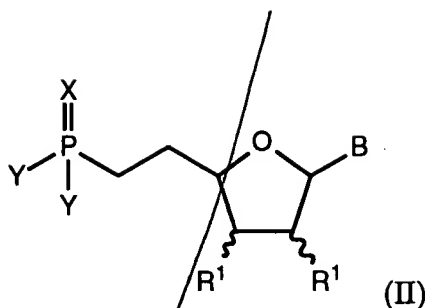
and stereoisomers thereof wherein [B, R¹, R², Y and X have any of the meanings given in claim 7]

each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂ or SR² wherein,
each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and
X is oxygen or sulfur.

13. The compound of claim 10 wherein B is 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine [aziridinylicytosine].

17. The compound of claim 14 wherein B is 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine [aziridinylicytosine].

20. (three times amended) A pharmaceutical composition useful for treatment of a viral infection which comprises an antivirally effective amount of a compound of formula (II)



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

R¹ at the 2'-position is fluorine or methyl ether;

R¹ at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂ or SR² wherein each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is oxygen or sulfur

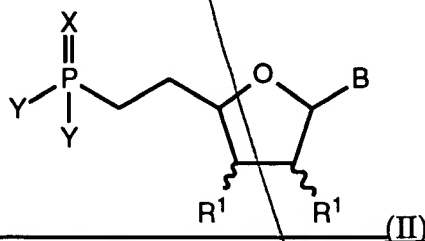
in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

32. (amended) The compound of claim 10 wherein B is [adenine, guanine, cytosine,] thymine, uracil, iodouracil, 8-hydroxy-N⁶-methyladenine, [aziridinylcytosine,] 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine.

33. (amended) The compound of claim 10 wherein B is [guanine, cytosine, thymine,] N²-isobutyrylguanine, N⁴-benzoylcytosine, N⁶-benzoyladenine or N³-benzylthymine.

34. (amended) The compound of claim 14 wherein B is [adenine, guanine, cytosine,] thymine, uracil, iodouracil, 8-hydroxy-N⁶-methyladenine, [aziridinylcytosine,] 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine.

35. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition for treatment of a viral infection [or a malignant condition] which comprises an antivirally effective amount of a compound of formula (II) [of claim 29]



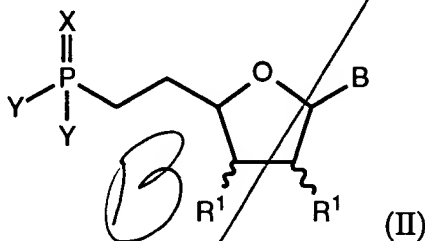
and stereoisomers thereof, wherein B is guanine, cytosine or thymine; R¹ at the 2'-position is fluorine or methyl ether; R¹ at the 3'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently OR^2 , $N(R^2)_2$, or SR^2 wherein each R^2 is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and X is oxygen or sulfur in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

36. (amended) The composition of claim 35 wherein [in the compound of formula (II),] each Y is hydroxyl, [and one of] R^1 at the 2' position is hydrogen or [2'-]fluoro, [and the other] R^1 at the 3' position is [3'-]hydroxy and X is oxygen.

37. (amended) The compound of claim 36 wherein B is adenine, guanine, cytosine[,] or thymine[, N^2 -isobutyrylguanine, N^4 -benzoylcytosine or N^6 -benzoyladenine].

39. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



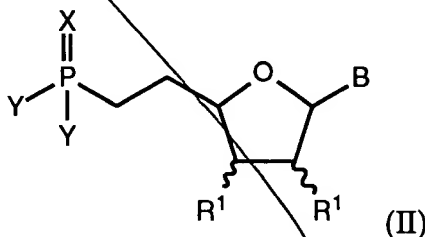
and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

each R^1 is independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether [ester];

each Y is independently OR^2 , $N(R^2)_2$, or SR^2 wherein each R^2 is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and X is sulfur.

41. (amended) A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is 5-iodouracil, thymine, guanine, 8-hydroxy-N⁶-methyladenine, [aziridinylcytosine,] 2-aminopurine or 2,6-diaminopurine;

R¹ at the 3'-position is hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

R¹ at the 2'-position is hydrogen or hydroxyl;

each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂, or SR² wherein each R² is hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

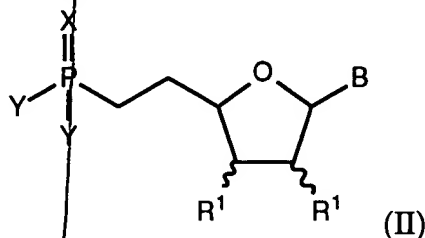
X is oxygen or sulfur.

Please add the following new claims.

--47. The compound of claim 40 wherein R¹ at the 2' position is fluorine.

48. The compound of claim 38 wherein B is adenine.

49. A compound of formula (II):



and stereoisomers thereof, wherein:

B is a purine or pyrimidine base;

each R¹ is independently hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether;

each Y is independently OR², N(R²)₂, or SR² wherein each R² is independently hydrogen or alkyl (1-12C); and

X is sulfur.

50. The compound of claim 49 wherein

B is adenine;

R¹ at the 3' position is hydroxyl; and

R¹ at the 2' position is hydrogen, hydroxyl, fluorine or methyl ether.--